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Remarks

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

Claims 1-11 and 22-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 26-31 are allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 11, 22, 23, and 25 are rejected.

Claims 2, 4, 9, 10 and 24 are objected to.

The gracious allowance of Claims 26-31 by the Examiner is acknowledged and appreciated by the Applicants.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 2, 4, 9, 10, and 24 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is further acknowledged and appreciated.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102(c)

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 11, 22, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §102(c) as being anticipated by Kiyotoshi '258 publication.

Claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in Claims 8 and 9, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The newly

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amended independent Claim 1 is therefore equivalent to dependent Claim 9 being rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations contained in the base claim 1 and in the intervening Claim 8. Claims 8 and 9 are cancelled as a result.

The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 10 are now allowable and a reconsideration for allowance of Claims 1 and 10 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 3, 5-7, 11, 22, 23, and 25 depend on the newly amended independent Claim 1, and therefore are likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of these claims is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending Claims, i.e. Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 22-25 are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner, together with the passage to issuance of the allowed Claims 26-31 is respectfully solicited from the Examiner.

In the event that the present invention as claimed is not in condition for allowance for any reason, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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